

A<sup>3</sup> 5. (Amended) The network of claim 4, wherein the second node establishes a second communication channel with the first node, identified by a second identifier that includes the first point code and the third point code. Table 4

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A<sup>4</sup> D 7. (Amended) The network of claim 6, wherein the second node has a second network identifier to identify a second network, and establishes a third communication channel identified by an identifier that includes either the second point code or the third point code and the second network identifier. Table 4

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10. (Amended) A node comprising:

a switching element to selectively couple the node to a communication channel with an other node; and

A<sup>5</sup> a communication channel identifier agent (CCIA) coupled to the switching element to identify the communication channel, the CCIA including one or more origination identifiers, the one or more origination identifiers to identify the node, and a destination identifier, the destination identifier to identify the other node, the CCIA to use at least one of the one or more origination identifiers and the destination identifier to identify the communication channel.

11. (Amended) The node of claim 10 wherein, the origination identifiers are originating point codes (OPCs), the destination identifier is a destination point code (DPC), and the CCIA creates an interface identifier, the interface identifier including, at least, one of the one or more OPCs and the DPC. Table 4

12. (Amended) The node of claim 11 wherein the interface identifier further includes a network identifier, the network identifier to identify a network to which the switching element is to connect.

13. (Amended) The node of claim 12 wherein the CCLA is to identify a communication channel from the node to the other node, with an identifier that represents a combination of the interface identifier and a circuit identification code (CIC).

14. (Amended) A method comprising:

creating a first interface identifier, the first interface identifier representing at least a first origination identifier to identify a first node and a destination identifier to identify a second node; and

combining the first interface identifier with a circuit identification code (CIC) to identify a communication channel between the first node the second node.

15. (Amended) The method of claim 14 further comprising:

creating a second interface identifier, the second interface identifier representing at least a second origination identifier to identify the first node and the destination identifier to identify the second node; and

combining the second interface identifier with the CIC to identify a second communication channel between the first node and the second node.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein the first node implements the Common Channel Signaling System No. 7 (SS7) protocols to manage the first communication channel and the second communication channel; and

the first and second origination identifiers are originating point codes and the destination identifier is a destination point code.

18. (Amended) The method of claim 17 further comprising:

creating a third interface identifier, the third interface identifier including at least one of the two originating point codes (OPCs) designating the first node, a second destination point code (DPC) designating a third node, and a second network identifier to identify a network containing the third node; and

combining the third interface identifier with the CIC to identify a third communication channel between the first node and the third node.

20. (Amended) A method comprising:

receiving an origination identifier to identify a node;

receiving a destination identifier to identify an other node; and

generating an interface identifier to identify a communication channel between the node and the other node, the interface identifier representing at least the origination identifier and the destination identifier.

21. (Amended) The method of claim 20 further comprising:

receiving a circuit identification code (CIC); and

employing the interface identifier and the CIC to identify the communication channel between the node and the other node.

22. (Amended) The method of claim 21 further comprising:

receiving a second origination identifier, the second origination identifier to alternatively identify the node; and

generating a second interface identifier, the second interface identifier including at least the second origination identifier and the destination identifier.

23. (Amended) The method of claim 22 further comprising employing the second interface identifier and the CIC to identify a second communication channel between the node and the other node.

24. (Amended) The method of claim 21 further comprising:

receiving a first network identifier to identify a first network and a second network identifier to identify a second network;

generating a second interface identifier, the second interface identifier including at least the origination identifier, destination identifier, and second network identifier; and

employing the second interface identifier and the CIC to identify a communication channel between the node and a node in the second network.

25. (Amended) The method of claim 24 wherein the node is implementing the Common Channel Signaling System No. 7 (SS7) protocols to manage the communication channels; and

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the origination identifiers are originating point codes and the destination identifier is a destination point code.

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27. (Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:

an electronically accessible medium providing instructions, that when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to

receive an origination identifier to identify a node;

receive a destination identifier to identify an other node; and

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generate an interface identifier, the interface identifier including at least the origination identifier and the destination identifier.

28. (Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the electronically accessible medium providing instructions, that when executed by one or more processors cause the one or more processors to

receive a circuit identification code (CIC); and

employ the interface identifier and the CIC to identify a communication channel between the node and the other node.

29. (Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 28, wherein the electronically accessible medium providing instructions, that when executed by one or more processors cause the one or more processors to

receive a second origination identifier, the second origination identifier to alternatively identify the node; and

generate a second interface identifier, the second interface identifier representing at least the second origination identifier and the destination identifier.

30. (Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 28, wherein the electronically accessible medium providing instructions, that when executed by one or more processors cause the one or more processors to

receive a first network identifier to identify a first network and a second network identifier to identify a second network;

generate a second interface identifier, the second interface identifier including at least the origination identifier, destination identifier, and second network identifier; and

employ the second interface identifier and the CIC to identify a communication channel between the node and a node in the second network.

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